THE LINNEN and WOOLLEN MANUFACTORY DISCOURSED:

With the Nature of

Companies and Trade in general:

And particularly, that of the

COMPANY'S FOR The Linnen Manufactory OF ENGLAND and IRELAND.

With some

REFLECTIONS HOW The TRADE of *Ireland* hath formerly, and may now affect *England*.

Printed at the Request of a PEER of this Realm.

LONDON,

Printed, and are to be sold by *Thomas Mercer*, at the *Half-Moon* joining the *East-Corner* of the *Royal Exchange*, *Cornhil*, 1691.

BODLEIANA BIBLIOTHECA

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The Linnen and Woollen MANUFACTORY Diſcourſed.

SIR,

THE Deference I bear to your Integrity, and great Judgment, ſubjects me to the leaſt of your Commands, and that brings before you my Thoughts on thoſe ſeveral Heads you propoſed to me.

1. My Opinion of Companies in Trade, by Authority of the Great Seal in general.

2. Of the preſent Company in *England* for the Linnen Manufactory.

3. Of that for the ſame in *Ireland.*

I doubt you may judge of my Senſe in this Diſcourſe, as Men do of Minerals, that when they appear near the day, as they phraſe it, and are eaſily come at, that the Vein is not good. So may you judge of my forward Opinion in the following Lines; however, you that command, can pardon, and by your better Judgment ſupply my Defects.

I ſhall begin with that of Companies in general. Theſe I take to have been very common in the early days of Trade, when Navigation was judged a Myſtery next to that of the Black Art, and ſuch as would venture their Perſons and Eſtates into the New World, as they termed new found Countries, Heroes equal to *Alexander* and *Cæſar*,

Æs triplex circa pectus erat —— Horace.

In theſe Times Kings could not exceed in their Grants and Privileges, that by them Adventurers might be increaſed, and Trade brought to their Dominions, we ſee how fond Princes were of Merchants, by the great Privileges our Kings gave to the *Eaſterlings*, as they then called the *Flemings*, the *Still-Yard* is a laſting Monument of their Grandure; and our Chronicles tell how boldly they would upon any Diſtaſte bear on our Kings.

So were our Companies in following years courted by Foreign Princes, and States, to ſettle their Trade in their Dominions; but as Trade and and Commerce became familiar in the World, the Wiſdom of Government made the Privileges of Trade univerſal to their Subjects: and ſo by degrees Companies were abated, and only ſuch continued as were thought uſeful for preſerving ſome particular Trades, that if left at large might become leſs profitable to the Kingdom.

There is another Reaſon for Companies in Foreign Parts, which ſome bring to ſtrengthen their Opinion for them here. They tell us Companies are frequent in *France*, *Holland*, *Swedeland*, and likewiſe in moſt ſmall Princes Dominions; but in all theſe Places there may be Reaſons which hold not here, ſome of them have but little Trade and Navigation, the People not affected with Trade, but content themſelves with the Product of their own Country. Now in this Caſe there is Reaſon for the Government to encourage Companies even to the ſeeming loſs of the People in general, that is by placing ſuch Duties and Prohibitions on Foreigners: as to keep them out,

that ſo their own Subjects may ſet their own Rates on what they import, otherwiſe they would not be able to manage a Trade that Foreigners could underſel them in, and ſo their Country would become a Province to other Princes, I take them to be not better who govern not their own Trade, but are beholding to Strangers. Companies in Countries under theſe Circumſtances ſeem abſolutely neceſſary to preſerve ſome Trade of their own, but we in *England* are not under theſe Neceſſities.

France and other Countries before mentioned have Inducements much of the ſame Nature; for tho they may drive conſiderable Trades in the World, yet they come after us in their Foreign Plantations, and Trade, and where they are ſo, nothing but Companies can introduce them, but had they an open and ſecure Trade they would ſoon throw down the Incloſure, and make their Trade common to all their own Subjects.

There is yet another reaſon for Companies, and that is all I can find which carries a pretence for any in *England*, that is, where there wants a Force and Government to ſecure Ships and Men, whilſt they are imployed in the Trade of the Country among Savages, and ſo have not the Protection of the Country, as in other more civilized Nations. Here, if the Government of the Kingdom do not at the publick Charge ſet up and maintain Forts and Garriſons for the ſecurity of their own People that trade there, the Trade can be no other way carried on but by a Company and Joint-ſtock, and that Trade appropriated to them as a Fund and Recompence for their Charge of maintaining a Force and Government. But this ſeems to proceed rather from the Miſtakes or Neglect in Government, than a good Expedient for Trade, that any Society of private Men ſhould have a Regal Power to make War, or Peace, give Commiſſions, *&c.* may be thought an Indication of Weakneſs in the National Power they derive from, and is a Creature within a Creature that wants a Name: and however this Management may ſecure a Gain to the Company, yet at the ſame time it may be a Loſs to the Nation to which they belong. As that of the *African* Company, which by the beſt Judgment is depricated as the Bane of our Foreign Plantations. Something of which is touched upon by Mr. *Dalby Thomas* in his Hiſtorical Account of the Riſe and Growth of the *Weſt-India* Colonies, a more Rational and Mercantine Diſcourſe I have not met with. Now it might be thought more Honorable for the Nation to ſecure every part of their Trade at the publick Charge, than to leave it to the Conduct of private Men, and ſo ſet up a Common-Wealth within a Monarchy: that for any Miſcarriages are not called to account like other Offenders, but treated like an Ally, I know not how better to diſtinguiſh Men that ſeiſe Ships and Goods where they find them without Proceſs of Law.

By this Account you will believe me no Friend to Companies; and I muſt confeſs my Judgment and Experience, as far as it goes, is againſt them: but ſtill with a Reſerve to ſuch, as by a long Deſcent from their Predeceſſors, that purchaſed it by ſignal Service to the Nation, have in a manner a Freehold, as that of the *Turkey*, *Hamburg*, and ſome other Companies in being. But that Projectors and Courtiers ſhould be inſpired with New Lights, and out of Love to the Nation, create new Methods in Trades, that none before found out; and by incloſing Commons the Liberty of Trade into Shares, in the firſt place for themſelves, and then for ſuch others as will pay for both, is, I muſt confeſs, to me, a Myſtery I deſire to be a Stranger unto.

And this brings me to the ſecond part of your Enquiry, my Thoughts of the preſent Linnen Manufactory in *England*. You know my Averſion to the Sin of this Age, Scandal and Reflection, to avoid which, I may perhaps be

be ſhort in ſetting forth my Senſe of this Company; and the Progreſs they make in the Deſign they propoſe, of making Linnen to the Advantage of the Nation, and Profit of the Company.

1. Firſt then, I ſubmit to better Judgments, that a Company and Joint-Stock is not a proper way to ſet up and increaſe Manufactory. It is uſual for any Man that deſigns to take up the Trade of another, whom he pretends not to exceed, but labours to imitate, to follow the Steps of him he makes his Aim. Now then if we take up the Trade of Linnen Manufactory from *Germany*, *Holland*, and *France*, let us ſee if any of theſe Kingdoms eſtabliſhed it by Companies; if they did not, and grew great in it by other Methods, it might then be thought our beſt way to do as they did.

But that the very Name of a Company and Joint-Stock in Trade, is a Spell to drive away, and keep out of that place where they reſide, all Men of Induſtry, and Buſineſs that relates to what the Company pretends unto, is not new to any Man of Imployment in the World. The great Motive to Labour and Incouragement of Trade, is an equal Freedom, and that none may be ſecluded from the delightful Walks of Liberty. Now Trade to Merchants, and mechanick Arts to Workmen are their Walks, which where any challenge a Right to keep the Key, they will not come; a Subjection in Manufactories where a People are obliged to one Maſter, tho they have the full Value of their Labour, is not pleaſing, they think themſelves in perpetual Servitude, and ſo it is obſerved in *Ireland*, where the *Iriſh* made a Trade of Linnen Yarn, no Man could ingage them, but they would go to the Market and be better ſatisfied with a leſs price, than to be obliged to one Maſter: but this of a Company is one Maſter to a Kingdom; and whatever they pretend unto in ſaying they hinder no Man, yet they have ſuch Advantages by being a Body incorporate, and having a Joint-Stock, that no Man of a private Purſe dares ingage in that Trade they call themſelves a Company of: Much leſs will any new Stores come, where at their Entrance they muſt put on a Shackle of the Company's forging.

2. We have the Practice of former Ages againſt the introducing of Manufactories by Companies. I do not find that the Woollen Manufactory, firſt introduced by *Edward* the Third who brought in the *Flemings*, was advanced by Companies, but that he gave like Immunities to all that would imploy themſelves in it. And however Notions and Opinions may prevail in Schools, the plain Methods of Labour are better underſtood by the Practick than Theory.

There was much more Reaſon for a Company and Joint-Stock to ſet up the Woollen Manufactory in that ignorant Age, than there is for this of the Linnen Manufactory; that of the Woollen was a new Art not known in this Kingdom, it required a great Stock to manage, there was required Foreign as well as Native Commodities to carry it on, Oil, dying Stuffs, *&c.* and when the Manufactory was made, there muſt be Skill and Intereſt abroad to introduce the Commodity where others had the Trade before them: but there is nothing of all this in the Linnen Manufactory; Nature ſeems to deſign it for the weaker Sex. The beſt of Linnen for Service is called Houſe-wife's Cloth, here then is no need of the Broad Seal, or Joint Stock to eſtabliſh the Methods for the good Wife's weeding her Flax Garden, or how ſoon her Maid ſhall ſit to her Wheel after waſhing her Diſhes; the good Woman is Lady of the Soil, and holds a Court within her ſelf, throws the Seed into the Ground, and works it till ſhe brings it there again, I mean her Web to the bleaching Ground.

Now to appropriate this which the pooreſt Family may by Labour arriveunto, that is, finiſh and bring to Market a Piece of Cloth: to me ſeems

an infallible Expedient to diſcourage univerſal Induſtry, making the World believe they will do Wonders in their Company, and by that means diſcourage all private Endeavours; and when all is done, themſelves like the Mountain in the Fable bring forth a Mouſe.

3. As a Company will hinder the Increaſe of new Comers, ſo it will deſtroy ſuch as are ſettled here already. There are, as I am told, in ſeveral parts of the Kingdom, private Men that imploy themſelves and their little Stock in the Linnen Manufactory of Thread, Cloth, Tapes, &c. Now tho I believe any one of theſe Men with five hundred pounds Stock, ſhall actually increaſe the Trade more than a Company with five thouſand pounds, yet this Company drives out five thouſand ſmall Traders that are now in it. Traders are like Armies in a Field, ſmall parties, tho numerous, yet being disjoint, give way to a united Force: and this of the Linnen Manufactory above any Trade I know, if (which I muſt confeſs I doubt) it be for the Good of the Nation, requires more Charity than Grandeur to carry it on, the poor Spinner comes as often to her Maſter for Charity to a ſick Child, or a Plaiſter for a Sore, as for Wages; and this ſhe cannot have of a Company, but rather leſs for her Labour, when they have beat all private Undertakers out.

Theſe poor Spinners can now come to their Maſters Doors at a good time, and eat of their good, tho poor Maſters Chear; they can reaſon with him, if any miſtake, or hardſhip be put upon them, and this poor People love to do, and not be at the Diſpoſe of Servants, as they muſt be where their Acceſs can only be by Door-keepers, Clerks, &c. to the Governors of the Company.

I have ſeen a ſhort Diſcourſe of that Labourer in Charity, Mr. *Tho. Fermin*, and his Endeavours to promote the Linnen Manufactory, his Work was to relieve the poor, God's way, not by a Tax, which at beſt is but Man's way, and as it is imployed in *England* not the beſt. But I loſe Mr. *Fermin*; that he did in little, ſhewed what might be done at large, and that would (in my weak Opinion) have been a more probable way, to have inured idle and the moſt uſeleſs Hands in the Kingdom to ſpinning Linnen, as he propoſed, than the Formalities of a Company.

4. As a Company deſtroys particular perſons, and hinders the Improvement every particular Man would make in the Trade a Company invades, or rather ingroſſes; ſo a Company impoſes upon the Nation in general: It is a Natural Conſequence, and let them ſay what they can, all Men will believe it, that as they become Maſters of the Trade, ſo they will be of the Prices of the Commodity: and that they muſt have greater Rates for their Linnen, than private perſons could afford it for, is of neceſſity; otherwiſe how ſhall the Grandeur of the Company, Officers, &c. be maintained, and that which will be more than all the reſt, the Frauds, Neglects, and Miſcarriages of their numerous Agents, and Inſtruments imployed in the managing part; and it is to be noted, that this Company (to which I believe we have nothing like in Story, if conſidered in all its prepoſterous Deſigns and Machins) hath not the Advantage of Companies that trade by Sea, for they by a Joint Stock make great Adventures in one Bottom, and ſo are in many things at no more Charge with the Management of Ten thouſand pounds in Trade, than a private Man may be with One. But here with our Company it is not ſo, but on the contrary, the Company muſt be at more Charge than a private Man in their ſeveral Cheques, and Controlers upon their Servants; whereas every private Man doth his own Work, and as it is always done ſo to moſt Advantage, ſo moſt eſpecially in this of the Linnen Manufactory, where there muſt be a particular

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Eye to every pound of Thread Weaving, Whitening, and a multitude of other things; all which extraordinary Charge and Difficulty the Company muſt lie under more than private Men, can no other way be raiſed, but by leſſening the Wages of the Poor that make the Linnen, and raiſing the Price on the Rich that wear it? Our Laws provide well againſt Foreſtallers in Markets, and tho not ſo well as it might be, yet there is ſome care taken that Men have the fair buying of the Victuals they eat. This I have ſometimes thought is like Tithing Mint and Rue, neglecting the more weighty things of the Law, we provide Men ſhould not be cheated in buying a pennyworth of Eggs, but make no proviſion to ſecure them from the ſame Abuſe in a hundred pounds laid out in Cloaths. The poor Artizan ſhall not be oppreſſed in laying out his penny to one poorer than himſelf, but he is without Remedy ſhortened by a Company in his Penny as it comes in. I have heard Complaints of this Nature in greater matters of the publick Sales of the *Eaſt-India* Company, perhaps if due Conſideration were had of theſe great Ingroſſers, there would be found more Reaſon to reſtrain them, than a poor Woman that travels in the Country to buy up and ſell in a Market a few Hens and Chickens. But to return to our Corporation for Imaginary Linnen Manufactory.

I ſhall now lay down what offers to me, that if it were poſſible to introduce it in this Kingdom, that yet it would not be for the Intereſt of the Nation to have a Linnen Manufactory ſet up as a Trade in the Kingdom.

Divine Providence that appoints to every Nation and Country a particular Portion, ſeems to allot that to *England* which was the firſt acceptable Sacrifice to his Omnipotency, that of the Flock: the Produce of which is the moſt univerſal Covering of all the civilized Countries of the World, our Woollen Manufactory; a Talent which no Nation hath to that perfection as we have. This hath been for many Ages the Support of the Nation, imploying the poor at home, our Men and Ships at Sea. Now to decline this, and ſet up another Manufactory, looks like an extravagant Mechanick, who by his Improvidence hath loſt his own Art, and thinks to retrieve his Misfortune by taking up that of another Mans. This is condemned in particular perſons, and to be feared in a Community.

But it will be ſaid, there is not Imployment for the Hands of the Nation in the Woollen Manufactory: and ſince Linnen carries away ſo much of our Money, it ſeems the Intereſt of the Nation to imploy idle Hands in that which will keep Money in the Kingdom.

Now tho both theſe Aſſertions have too much Truth in them, yet neither of them have Weight enough to enforce the Concluſion, that the Linnen Manufactory is the only Remedy. If we ſearch into the Bottom of our Diſtemper we ſhall find another Cauſe of our Diſeaſe.

It is not becauſe there is leſs Woollen Manufactory uſed in the World than formerly, that our Trade declines, nor yet becauſe we make more than formerly; for it is demonſtrable, that from the year 1673 to the year 1680, there was much more Wooll wrought up in *England*, than in eleven years ſince: Nor is it altogether to be aſſigned to the preſent War; for that our Trade decayed in the latter part of King *Charles* the Second, and all the Reign of the late King. The Reaſons then for our Decay in the Woollen Manufactory ſeem to be theſe.

1. The Growth of courſe Woollen Manufactory in *Germany*, with which the *Venetians* trade to *Turkey*.

2. The Prohibition of our Woollen Manufactory into *France*.

3. The Increaſe of the Woollen Manufactory by our Neighbours with the help of our Wooll, ſo that in ſome things they out-do us in the price they can ſell at.

4. By

4. By the great Wear of *East-India*, and other Silks, and the use of Calicoes, which was formerly supplied by our Tammies and Sayes.

5. The want of the Consumption of *Ireland*, which abated all the Reign of the late King.

There is yet a Cause as valid as any of the former, which for some Reasons I forbear to mention.

Now to me it seems possible to Counterpoise all these, and to retrieve our Manufactory, and that by two ways.

First, By preventing the Transporting of Wooll, which if done, the *French* and others, that now furnish Markets abroad, would not be able to supply their own Expence.

It may be thought a vain Assertion, after all Attempts that have been made to prevent the Exportation of our Wooll, to say there is yet a way that may effectually do it. Yet I am morally sure it may be done both in *England* and *Ireland*; and if this were done, there is another thing that might oblige the *French*, when there is a Peace, to take off their Prohibitions on our Manufactory.

The other way to bring our Woollen Manufactories into esteem abroad, is, to make them so cheap as to undersell the *German* Coarse Manufactories; and that may be done with ease, which I can make out upon occasion.

These two things if practicable, as I persuade my self they are, will set the Woollen Manufactory on so good a Foot, as together with a Consumption, not yet practised in *England*, will find Imployment for the meanest Hand in *England*. So that there will be rather Want than Superfluity of Hands in the Woollen Manufactory.

Now if there be any thing in all I have said, it seems reasonable to consider well, before the Nation gives up its Staple and long continued Trade for a Shadow, as I take the Linnen Manufactory to be: for although I believe it can never come to effect, yet so far it may go as to injure that of the Woollen, by diverting some that are now in it, and so raise the price of Spinning, than which nothing can be more prejudicial; for as I mentioned before, nothing can retrieve our lost Trade abroad, but underselling our Competitors: so then we must labour to make ours as cheap as we can, and not set up another Manufactory, to bid who gives most for Spinners; a ready way to ruin the Clothing Trade of *England*, but not to set up the Linnen, which whenever it thrives must have a better way than the Methods the Company takes.

But because some pretend this Company may be of good use to the Nation in laying a Foundation for a Linnen Manufactory, for Argument sake allow it doth take. Let us consider, beside what hath been said before of injuring the Woollen Manufactory, how it will affect the Kingdom in the two Pillars that support it, that of the Rents of Land, and the imploying our Ships and Men at Sea, which are thought the Walls of the Nation.

For the Rents of Land they must certainly fall, for that one Acre of Flax will imploy as many Hands the year round, as the Wooll of Sheep that graze twenty Acres of Ground. The Linnen Manufactory imploys few Men, the Woollen most, Weaving, Combing, Dressing, Shearing, Dying, &c. These Eat and Drink more than Women and Children; and so as the Land that the Sheep graze on raiseth the Rent, so will the Arable and Pasture that bears Corn, and breeds Cattle for their Subsistence.

Then for the Employment of our Shipping, it will never be pretended that we can arrive to Exportation of Linnen; there are others and too many before us in that: and the Truth is, he that cannot thrive at his own Trade,

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will hardly in that of another Mans. If we are beat out of our Inheritance the Woollen Manufactory, by Foreigners, over whom we have ſuch Advantages in our Wooll, Fullers-Earth, and long continuance in the Trade, it can be nothing leſs than a Miracle for us to take from them their Linnen Manufactory, in which they have ſo much the Aſcendant over us.

I ſhall end this part of my Diſcourſe with the anſwer of a Weſt Country Man to his Neighbour, that asked what Voyage he had made in a Fiſhing at *New Found-Land* that proved not good, *I have made, ſaid he, a brave Voyage, as you may gueſs, for I have ſold my Bible and bought a Tobacco-Box.* Would it not be ſo to this Nation, if they ſhould change the Nobleſt Manufactory in the World, for the pooreſt, and moſt deſpicable? So are thoſe People in all parts of the World that are Imployed in the Linnen Manufactory, which only thrives where the Country is crowded with Poor, and Bread not to be had at the charge of the Pariſh; where the Tenant is but a Vaſſal to his Lord, and there is no power in any to relieve, but in the Lord, who is a ſtranger to the practice.

It is a miſtake in them that believe the Linnen Manufactory in *Holland* to be the Product of their own Country: it is only the eaſie part, that of Weaving and Whit'ning, moſt of their Thred comes from *Saxony*, where there is both Laws and Neceſſity for Induſtry; both of which, one as the bleſſing of God, the other by the impunity of our Government, this Kingdom is free from. And thus you have my Opinion and Grounds for it, that if it were poſſible to raiſe a Linnen Manufactory, it is not profitable to the Kingdom, but of moſt dangerous Conſequence to put that in the Heads of the Poor, that may alter the Imployment of their Hands. I know ſome Countries where they would have ill Entertainment that ſhould on any pretence change the Hands of the People; and this at leaſt gives a pretence to the Spinners of Woollen to ſtand on their terms with their Maſters.

I now come to your third Enquiry; My Opinion of the Company for the Linnen Manufactory of *Ireland*, and for that I have the ſame value as for this of *England*, but for different Cauſes, and they are theſe:

Firſt, Though it muſt be allow'd that *Ireland*, every thing being conſider'd, is the apteſt part of the World for a Linnen Manufactory; yet under its preſent Misfortunes I cannot ſee how it can be great in it, and that which may be ſet going in the Kingdom towards ſo good a Work, a Company ſeems the ready way to blaſt; for at the firſt Planting of a Country (and as *Ireland* now ſtands, ſo it muſt be conſidered) every Man comes with his deſign in his Head, ſome perhaps with a little Mony in their Pockets, lay a Scheme for making Linnen Cloth; they intend to ſettle themſelves where they may find moſt Spinners, and ſpend their time in Riding the Country round to incourage them, and buy up the Linnen Yarn. Theſe Undertakers have their Friends and Partners in *England*, to whom they ſend over their Linnen, and have back in Returns Tobacco, (for by the way it is to be noted they of *Ireland* are forbidden any but what comes directly from *England*) Hops, and *Engliſh* Manufactories. This now is a Trade and probable incouragement to make a growing Manufactory that *England* may gain by, and this way was begun in the latter end of *Charles* the Second's Reign with hopeful ſucceſs. But here theſe honeſt Men will meet with an invincible Enemy, with their Standard the Broad Seal ſet up, giving notice that they are the Men that will incourage and ſet on foot the Linnen Manufactory; and this being Proclaimed puts an end to our ſeveral *Engliſh* Undertakers, and Foreign ſupplies of Poor that might be drawn to *Ireland* by the Incouragement of a Univerſal Freedom and Liberty, in ſetting up the

Linnen Manufactory. But however a Company may operate to the driving out the poor that are already in that Buſineſs of Linnen I know not, but ſure I am there is Experience of other Places that Companies keep out new Stores.

But the Company will tell you, they hinder none from working or buying Linnen; this would not be believed, if they had not the Broad Seal to tell us ſo. They are the firſt Men I ever heard of that were at the Charge of paſſing a Patent, only to tell us, they intended to do no Body wrong, nor proceed in the Trade they incorporate themſelves in; whatever Belief the firſt part of their Declaration may gain, I leave the Squires of the Company (I mean thoſe that pay the Reckoning) to judge: but for the laſt part, that they intend not to proceed in the Trade moſt believe, and yet they equally do Miſchief, as if they did; ſince in the Opinion of the World theſe Men that incorporate get great Privileges, great Men to head them, and of their Fraternity, raiſe great Sums of Money of one half of the Company to be admitted in with thoſe that pay nothing but a Triſle for a Pretence. I ſay all this gives Ground for honeſt Men that know not the Original Deſign, to believe that they intended to do as much miſchief as they have power for: that is, proceed in buying Linnen Yarn, *&c.*

2. As the time is moſt improper for ſetting up a Linnen Manufactory in *Ireland*, ſo are the Methods and Conſtitutions of Companies in *Ireland* deſtructive to both Kingdoms.

Ireland I take to ſtand in its Relation to *England* much in the ſame Nature with our Foreign Plantations, and might be made more beneficial than them all. But if *Ireland* be at firſt ſetting out, after this late Devaſtation, begun with Companies that will, as I ſaid before, be a Barr to the peopling that Kingdom with Foreign Proteſtants, and *Ireland* can never be ſafe whilſt the *Iriſh* ſo over-ballance the *Engliſh*, as they do to this day. So then there ſeems Reaſon to preſerve *Ireland*, as a Foreign Plantation, from the implacable Enemy of *England* the *Iriſh*, but Companies in Trade will hinder New-comers, and that makes for the *Iriſh*; this is againſt the Security of *England*.

The next thing *Ireland* may be conſidered in, is how it ſtands as a Foreign Plantation to *England* in point of its Trade, and Conſumption of our Woollen, Iron, and other Manufactories; and in that, by an Account I have ſeen, it exceeds all the *Weſt-India* Plantations, as alſo in that of our Natural Product, Corn, Hops, Salt, *&c.*

Now then, that which hinders the Increaſe of People (and that does Companies) abates the Conſumption of the Product of *England* in *Ireland*.

We will next conſider *Ireland* in its Natural and Artificial Product as a Foreign Plantation, and as ſuch how we ſhould uſe it. I have before mentioned how they conſume our Product, we will now ſee what becomes of theirs, and in that we uſe them as Foreign Plantations, preſcribing them Rules, Methods, and Prohibitions in ſome of their Commodities, as their Wooll, Linnen, Yarn, *&c.* we oblige them to ſend no where but to *England*; and if they be kept to it in their Wooll, as I am ſure they may, *England* would find it wants, not abounds in Wooll, for the ſeeming Exceſs of Wool in *England* is not becauſe we have too much from *Ireland*, but becauſe we have not all, for one pound of their Wooll works up ten of Foreign, and that enables them in their Manufactories abroad, to furniſh the Trade we formerly had intire to our ſelves. But to return, as we preſcribe Rules to *Ireland* what they ſhall ſend here, ſo we do what they ſhall ſend to other

parts;

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parts; to our Foreign Plantations they may not ſend any Manufactories, but have Liberty to ſend their Proviſions, Servants and Horſes; and as we confine what, how, and where they may export, ſo we do in many things their Imports; that they ſhall import none of our Foreign Plantation Commodities from thence direct, but all from *England*. After all this it may be thought *Ireland* is ſo intirely a Plantation of *England*, that it may deſerve the Care of the Nation, to people that Kingdom, but the Noiſe of Companies will keep out Planters, and therefore to be ſuppreſs'd.

If any ſhould preſume to ſet up a Grant that might keep out People from the Foreign Plantations, it may be preſum'd the Government would lay its Hands on ſuch miſtaken Grants; this of the Linnen Manufactory is ſuch, it will keep out People diſpoſed to that Manufactory, for ſuch love to have Choice of Maſters.

Therefore we never ſee Companies ſet up in our Foreign Plantations, every Man is Maſter of his own Invention, Labour and Deſigns; ſo it ſeems the Intereſt of *England* as well as *Ireland* to have the like Freedom there; for if Companies are once admitted in *Ireland*, it is not the Subjects of either Kingdom ſhall be Maſters of them; there are thoſe in the World that know how to uſe ſuch Advantages better than we do; and with their Money will ſoon purchaſe the Ruling Shares, eſpecially when the Grant is deſign'd for ſelling, not trading Shares, and being ſo bought, the Purchaſers have Authority to ſet up a Joint-Stock, can ſue, and muſt be ſued as a Body Politick with all the other Privileges uſual in ſuch Grants. Being thus eſtabliſhed, they ſhall ingroſs all the Trade in the Kingdom, let their Company be called what you pleaſe, and theſe Men may live in what part of the World they think fit, and govern the Trade of *Ireland* by their Factors, tho the Company bears the Name only of the Linnen Manufactory.

And however the Generality of Men ſee not the hidden Myſteries and Influences Companies have in Trade, yet Merchants and Handicrafts do; and that is the Reaſon I find thoſe of *Ireland* give, why that wonderful Statute, (for ſuch I take it to be) which gives greater Privileges to Foreigners than native Subjects, had no Effect, brought not ten Families, ſome ſay not one into *Ireland*, and all becauſe Men love not Incloſures in Trade, tho they may be in them themſelves; for by the Statute before mentioned, any Foreign Proteſtant that would ſettle in *Ireland*, might upon his demand, taking the Oath of Allegiance and Supremacy before any Juſtice of Peace, be made free of any City, Trade or Company in the Kingdom, paying twenty ſhillings, and was alſo by the ſame Statute declared, and was naturalized. But all this would not do whilſt there were Companies in the Kingdom, tho they are not of ſo appropriate a Conſtitution as this of the Linnen Manufactory and all Companies of Joint Stocks are.

I now come to ſhew how in particular the Company for a Linnen Manufactory in *Ireland* will affect *England*.

1. It will prejudice *England* in its Manufactories of Fuſtian, Tapes and *Manchester* Ware, much of which are made by the Linnen Yarn of *Ireland*.

Now tho this Company cannot promote a Linnen Manufactory in *Ireland*, yet they may, and if they deſign any thing, it muſt be that, ingroſs the Linnen Yarn in the North of *Ireland*, which was formerly ſent to *England*, and imployed as aforeſaid, the want of which or ſetting a price upon it, muſt be of prejudice to the Manufactories of *England*, with ſome other Diſadvantages that would ſwell this Diſcourſe here to mention.

2. If this Company ſhould prevail, of which there is no reaſon to fear, they by their Compact made with the Company here, have agreed that all the

Linnen

Linnen of *Ireland* ſhall be ſold by the Company here, ſo then the People of *England* muſt pay for their Linnen what they pleaſe, and that which is yet worſe, the Linnen and Linnen Yarn, that hitherto hath been purchaſed by the Manufactories and Commodities of *England*, the Company will be paid for in Money: And then where is the Difference to have it from *France* or *Ireland*? Nor will the Company's ſelling for Money be an Advantage to *Ireland*, but to the contrary enable the Company to impoſe on the Kingdom what Goods, and at what Rates they pleaſe, when they have beat out the numerous Chapmen that uſe daily the *Iriſh* Trade: even the Farmers of the Weſt of *England* would come for *Ireland* with their Hops, Cyder, &c. and ſo the *Engliſh* of *Ireland*, who are our Bone and our Fleſh, dealt with us as Brethren, but it will not be ſo when the Trade of *Ireland* is managed by Foreigners in Companies as it ſeems now deſign'd.

3. The admitting this Company for Linnen Manufactory will be a Preſident for the ſame in all other Trades, and Imployments of the Kingdom. It is ſaid there is a Patent now paſſing for the Fiſhing of *Ireland*, there may with as much Reaſon be another for Plowing.

And why not ſome publick ſpirited Projector have a Patent for a more excellent way of cutting Turf, a Fuel much uſed in *Ireland*?

This way of appropriating the Trade of *Ireland* is happily of worſe Conſequence to *England*, than at firſt ſight appears. Perhaps it will not be thought a Prejudice to *England*, that a Patent is granted for a Fiſhing in *Ireland*, when it ſhall be in the Name of Men of *England*. But when this Patent is transferred to Foreigners, and they with their Men and Ships manage this Fiſhing, what will *England* or *Ireland* get by it? Several Small-Crafts that uſe to come from *England* to the Weſt of *Ireland* will be beat out of their Trade, and in concluſion *Ireland* made a Province for Trade to any Foreigners that will buy from our projecting Patentees.

As I ſaid before, *Ireland* is no more than one of our Foreign Plantations, only I think it will be allowed the firſt place, and more than any other in nearneſs of Blood, and that of our Nobles, there being many Familes in that Kingdom deſcended from the ancient Families of this, and moſt of the Eſtates in *Ireland* held by the Deſcent from our Brethren, who purchaſed it with their Blood. Theſe Reflections may prevail for our Care of them, at leaſt equally to any Colony abroad; and we never think it our prejudice to have them thrive, nor would the Growth of *Ireland*, if rightly diſpoſed or underſtood. And here give me leave to make a Digreſſion, if it may be call'd ſo, but you may think it not foreign to the Diſcourſe.

I find it generally believed, that *Ireland* is as miſchievous to our Trade in time of Peace, as it is deſtructive to our Men and Treaſure in time of War. And tho this Opinion never went far with me, yet ſomething I did doubt was in it, until I met with that which gave plain Demonſtration to the contrary, and it was this.

I fell into an entire acquaintance with a Gentleman of *Ireland*, whoſe Experience, and long Continuance in all the Foreign Trade of that Kingdom, furniſhed him with Arguments I could not anſwer, to prove that *England* was a great Gainer by the Trade of *Ireland*. When I could not confute him, nor he prevail with me, he told me he would ſhew me that which carried Authority with it, and ſo he did; being, as he aſſured me, the Work of ſome years, as he could ſpare time to compoſe it. The whole Diſcourſe takes up many Sheets, upon the Trade of *Ireland* to all parts, and particular Remarks upon every Commodity exported and imported into that Kingdom, and where, and how it affects *England*. Some other things

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he reſerved as Secrets from me, as he doth the reſt to others; for it was never ſeen by any but one beſide my ſelf. Out of the whole he hath extracted an exact Account of the Exports and Imports for one year in a Medium out of ſix; and then diſtinguiſhed what related to *England*, by what Ships brought in, and out; then computed the Value of each Commodity, and to what they were improved being manufactored in *England*; and then what Money in *Specie*, or Bills of Exchange, which is the ſame, was returned from Foreign Parts to *England* out of the Proceed of Goods ſent from *Ireland*, all which being brought to a Sum, it appeared, that *England* gained by *Ireland* more than two Millions Sterling *per annum*. It ſeemed to me an incredible thing, but being, as he affirms, Matter of Fact, for which he hath the Account of the Cuſtoms, it is not to be denied, the Breviat is drawn in ſo plain and intelligible a Method as renders it eaſie to any Underſtanding, and therefore to mine: I would fain have prevailed with him to Print the whole Matter, but he thinks it may be made better uſe of another way; and affirms, that as great as this looks, yet it might be improved to much more, if the Trade of *Ireland* were diſpoſed, as it might be, to the Advantage of *England*. But he ſaid that Kingdom was in no Reign, ſince the firſt Conqueſt of *Ireland*, conſulted in its Trade, but left to its ſelf, or treated like an Enemy, all the uſe made of it was, for Courtiers, Men of Projection and Neceſſity, to traffick, and diſpoſe it into Grants, Imployments, and Offices, and ſo made it rather a Foreſt for Game, than a Plantation of Trade and Commerce; and that which continued it ſo in the Reign of *Charles* the Second, was the Jealouſies and Miſtakes of *England*, believing it grew too faſt, and incroached on their Trade, tho it is demonſtrable, *Ireland* doth us no hurt, but where we by our own Laws force it; and that act, pardon the Expreſſion, like Lunaticks that ſtrive to ſuppreſs their Shadows, for fear they ſhould aſſault them.

None will ſay *England* would be the worſe, if it were double the Acres it now is, and tho the Sea part us from *Ireland*, may not Laws make us one, in our Intereſt and Trade, and ſo that *Ireland* may be more profitable to *England* in general, than *Wales* or any County in *England* is to the whole in its proportion? There never was ſo fair an Opportunity for inriching this Nation by *Ireland* as now; it is by Divine Providence once more put a Blank in our Hands, in which his Majeſty may ſtamp what he pleaſes: and we have Reaſon to believe, that he who ventures His Royal Perſon ſo freely for the Preſervation of theſe Kingdoms, will not deny us any thing that can contribute to our Growth in Trade and Treaſure. One thing I muſt not omit, which I had from this Gentleman of *Ireland*, that to me ſeems valid for Confirmation of all he aſſerts: That *Ireland* neither inſures nor gains on *England*; for that in the laſt twenty years of *Ireland*'s greateſt Proſperity, not one Man of *England* purchaſed in *Ireland*, but numbers of *Ireland* have in that time purchaſed in *England*; as they of that Kingdom, I mean the *Engliſh* always do, as they increaſe their Fortunes. This being ſo, *Ireland* is to *England* a Mine of Treaſure, and affects us, tho in a much larger Proportion, as *Newfoundland*, and *Hudſon's Bay*, whatever is gain'd in them terminates in *England*.

I ſhall cloſe this Diſcourſe with the Complaint I have heard from the Generality of Merchants, that when all the Governments of *Europe*

have for more than twenty years past been consulting their Interest in Trade, and how they might improve it, we of *England* make no Provision for ours, but leave it to the Ravage of Strangers, and the worse Confusions of an ungovern'd Multitude in Trade, whereas, if we had a Council of Trade composed of Merchants from all parts of the Kingdom, set apart for searching into the several Practices of Trade, and Miscarriages therein, *England* would have grown beyond any part of the World in Trade, and Navigation, and might thereby have prevented the wonderful Rise of *France*; whose prodigious Advance in Navigation and Commerce is assign'd to the Experience and Conduct of *Colebert* that was originally bred a Merchant, of whom it is said, that when he was prime Minister of *France*, he would say he did his Master better Service in a Committee of Merchants, than at the Council-Board. We have much greater Funds for Trade than *France* can pretend to; and tho we may want *Coleberts*, yet lesser Men, with greater Helps than he had, might at least retrieve, if not increase our lost Trade, which in several Branches are decayed almost to a total Loss: as that of *Muscovy*, *Greenland*, *Newfoundland*, and others.

And if Fame be true, we are in the ready way to lose what we have left, the Exchange being filled with Projects, Wagers, Stock Jobbing, upon imagnary Wrecks, Pharee Companies of Manufactories, &c. all which bode ill, and is a Green Sickness in Trade; when Men are taken up with Rubbish, like Maids feeding on Chalk, and Cinders, rejecting wholsome Food. This Evil looks like a spreading Leprosie over the Nation, when Merchants and Tradesmen live like Gamesters on the Spoil of each other, setting up Projects instead of Merchandize, which cunning Men cut into Shares, and so manage their Designs, as to fix their *Ignis fatuus* at last on innocent and well meaning Men, to the Ruin of them and their Families. I name not Men or Things to avoid Reflections; but wish those that are faulty in this matter would consider, that such Artifices, however the Hand of Justice in this World cannot reach, yet the Cries of Widows and Fatherless ascend a Tribunal that brings all things to Judgment. Those Frauds are of a new Stamp, not known in former Ages, and therefore want a Law to restrain them: which, it is hoped, the Great Council of the Nation will look into, and that there may never more appear amongst us any of these Syrens, that a Council of Trade may be the standing Probationers of all new Inventions, and Expedients for Trade, that so Quacks in Trade may be suppress'd, and honest Industry and ingenuous Discoveries incouraged.

By which means a Stop may be put to those Men, who like *Cadmus*'s Serpents Teeth sowed in the Ground, bring up Men in Armour killing one another: I wish the Moral prove not truer than the Fable, we see Losses between private Men in Gaming often end in Blood; and National Gaming, Projects and Deceits, with Wagers on the Success of Companies, taking Cities, and Successes of Monarchs, must needs alienate the Affections of the Subject one from the other, and some from the King. This to me seems not an accidental Misfortune, but an Artifice of *France*, to raise Divisions amongst us, and bring our Trade to Confusion; for the *French* have as well Jesuits in Trade, as in Religion, to distract us. But we have not such invincible Champions for the first, as blessed be God we have for the latter: In my weak Judgment and Reflection on the present Condition of this

Nation,

Nation, nothing hath a worſe Aſpect than the Trade, Navigation, and Manufactories of it, and all for want of publick Spirited Men, that would, like our Anceſtors, who whatever they were at home, every Man, when in Parliament, was no leſs than a County, or Burrough, and ſpake not himſelf, but them. If this Bravery of Mind were in our Senators now, the Commerce of *England* would not look like a Scramble, for want of due Regulation; which cannot properly be without Men of practical Heads in Trade appropriated to the Work; nor is the preſent War a valid Pretext for the Neglect, ſince there ſeems as much Reaſon to provide for Trade in Time of War againſt Times of Peace, as there is for Armies in Time of Peace againſt a Time of War, which God in his due time put an End unto.

FINIS.

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SOME

Conſiderations:

Humbly Offered to Demonſtrate

How prejudicial it would be to the Engliſh ***Plantations, Revenues of the Crown, the Navigation and general Good of this Kingdom, that the ſole Trade for Negroes ſhould be granted to a Company with a Joynt-Stock excluſive to all others.***

THE great and unſpeakable Advantage the *Weſt-India* Plantations are to *England*, is ſo well known, that it needs no demonſtration to prove it. The only thing Neceſſary, is to endeavour to improve and increaſe this mighty advantageous Trade, by ſecuring them from the Inſults of their Enemies, and enabling them to make larger quantities of the Commodities of thoſe Colonies.

Now the means moſt conducive thereunto will be to make the Trade to *Affrica* open and free for all the Native Subjects of *England*, which Trade for Slaves is chiefly from *Acra* to *Angola*, and contains about 1200 Miles Sea-coſt, in which extent the preſent *African* Company have neither Fort, Caſtle, nor Factory; ſo that they have not the leaſt colour for a Pretence to an excluſive Right of Trade into thoſe Parts.

It is well known, that the Riches of the Plantations conſiſts in Slaves chiefly, by whoſe ſtrength and labour all their Commodities, as Tobacco, Sugar, Cotton, Indigo, Ginger, *&c.* are produced; and the more Slaves thoſe Plantations are ſupplyed with, the more Commodities are made, and the ſtronger they are to defend themſelves againſt any Inſults. Neither can there be any more danger of being over-ſtockt with Negroes, than there is that too much Tobacco, Sugar, *&c.* ſhould be ſent to *England*; for it is a plain conſequence, the more Negroes the more Goods will be produced, the more Goods the more Cuſtom paid, and all thoſe Commodities rendered here at home ſo cheap as will enable this Nation to ſend them abroad cheap alſo. to the great diſcouraging of the Plantation-Trade of all other Nations. Wherefore it is very plain, that a large ſupply of Negroes will not only bring great Riches to this Kingdom, but will alſo greatly Increaſe our Navigation.

Whereas on the contrary, ſhould the *Affrican* Trade be incloſed, and confin'd to the Wills and Powers of a Company, the conſequence would prove as fatal to the Plantations as a Power given to one Perſon in *England* to ſupply the Gardners with Servants, and the Farmers and Carriers

with

with Horſes: It is not to be doubted that the one would be conſtrained to pay yearly for his Servants as much as his Years product would amount to, and the other for his Team as much as the Rent of his Farm, which would prove great Diſcouragements to their Labour and Induſtry. This may we reaſonably ſuppoſe would be the Caſe of the Planters in the *Weſt-Indies*, were there but one Perſon that muſt ſupply them with Slaves, they being ſo extreamly Neceſſary, that it is impoſſible to live without them, every Man being rich or poor according to his Stock in Slaves. A Man that may be Proprietor of 10000 Acres of Land, would ſtill be poor had he no ſtock of Negroes to employ upon it.

It might be fairly Objected, That the preſent *Affrican* Company have carryed on their Trade but very imperfectly as to their own Advantage, (notwithſtanding that was all the Deſign they aimed at) as may be plainly proved from the Care they have taken to ſupply all the Plantations, it being very well known that they have not for theſe 20 Years or more ſent one Ships-loading of Negroes to *Virginia* nor *Maryland*, which are two very large Countreys, and capable of making twice as much Tobacco as they now do, were they but well ſupplyed with Negroes.

Every Negro that is ſent into thoſe Plantations, makes as much Tobacco yearly as pays from 30 *l.* to 40 *l.* Sterl. Cuſtom, but the Company think that is not material to their Stock: They underſtand the People are generally poor, and therefore will not venture to truſt them; whereas at the ſame time private Men have, (tho' with the hazard of being ſeized by the Companies Agents) and had it not been for that Supply thoſe Countries had been in a much worſe Condition than at preſent they are.

To further demonſtrate what before is hinted at, that the Company have no Forts, Caſtles nor Factories from *Acra* to *Angola*, nor do they ſuppoſe them neceſſary to carry on the Slave-Trade, is plainly proved from their own Practice and Management of that Trade, for when they deſign a Ship to trade for Slaves, they put a Lee-ward Cargo (as they term it) on board the Ship, and give the Maſter or the chief Officer of the Ship full power to diſpoſe, barter and ſell the ſaid Cargo for their Accounts, allowing them a Commiſſion of 4 *per Cent.* for diſpoſing of the ſaid Cargo, taking on board the Negroes, and delivering them to their Factors in the Plantations, who have uſually been the Governours of thoſe Places, who have diſpoſed of the Negroes not always to the poor Planters liking, but neceſſity hath no law, ſo muſt ſubmit to the Will and Pleaſure of their Superiours.

Now this great and growing Evil can only be prevented by permitting more Sellers of Negroes than one, wherefore ſince it is evidently demonſtrable, that it is no charge to carry on and manage the Slave-Trade, and of what great Concern it is to encourage and ſupport the *Engliſh* Plantations, whereby the Navigation of the Kingdom, Revennues of the Crown, and the General Good of this Narion is ſo much advanced, therefore it is humbly hoped that the Trade from *Acra* to *Angola* incluſive may be henceforth judged and allowed to be free and open for all the Subjects of this Kingdom.

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A

LETTER

From a MEMBER of the

Parliament of Scotland

To his Friend at LONDON,

Concerning their late ACT, for Eſtabliſhing a Company of that Kingdom, Tradeing to Africa *and the* Indies.

SIR,

THE Account you give me by your laſt, of the various Shapes into which ſome Perſons at *London* have Tranſformed our late Act of Parliament, for Eſtabliſhing a *Company Tradeing to* Africa *and the* Indies, and their repreſenting it under ſo many ſeveral Colours, to thoſe of different Capacities and Affections, puts me in mind of the Shepherd, who, ambitious to be thought Weatherwiſe, never fail'd with an air of Gravity, to publiſh his pretended Revelations of the enſuing Weather, in various and quite contrary manners to his ſeveral Proſelites, thereby ſecuring to himſelf certain Evidences in all Weathers that could happen, if any ſhould dare to call the Infallibility of his Predictions into queſtion. And really, The exact Idea you give me of the manner in which theſe Perſons ſeem to buſie themſelves in other Mens Affairs, affords me matter ſufficient to renew my Speculation, concerning the precarious Nature of all Mankind, in point of Intereſt; and by Retroſpection into ſome Tranſactions of this and the laſt Age, I am induced to trouble you with the following Narrative of ſome Obſervations naturally ariſing from the ſame, which to me ſeem directly to point at the Temper, Inclination, and real Intereſt of all *BRITAIN*: But before I launch into ſo wide an Ocean, I cannot forbear expreſſing the Satisfaction I have in Reflecting, That the whole Repreſentatives of a Nation ſo little experienced in Trade, as ours, ſhould with ſo unanimous a Voice (*Nemine contradicente*) agree to ſuch Meaſures and Foundation of Trade, as now ſeem worth the Notice of ſo great a People as our Neighbouring Nation; and my Satisfaction therein is ſtill the more exalted, by finding in your Account, That the moſt

Sober

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Sober and Tradeing People of that Kingdom, are ſo far from conceiving any diſguſt at, or diſlike to it, that they generally expreſs an Inclination to be concerned in it: Excepting (as you obſerve) a few who (every body knows) are preingaged to a dear Self-monopoliſing Intereſt, together with ſome few others, whoſe Inſtructions from a Foreign Court muſt in all probability oblige them to lay hold of any ſeeming Opportunity for blowing the Coal of Sedition in this Iſland, that they may fiſh in troubled Waters: And as a little Leaven leaveneth the whole Lump, you muſt always expect to find ſuch Perſons very vigilant, by their Emiſſaries, to amuſe the Unthinking Crowd with groundleſs Apparitions; and by a more induſtrious Artifice, have their deſigning Inſinuations buz'd into the Ears of ſome great Miniſters, who, having the bent of their Thoughts employed about Matters of State and Government, ſutable to the great Sphere in which they move, may poſſibly, through want of Time, conſider this Matter no further than by a bare ſuperficial View of ſuch fallacious Poſitions as may probably, by Prepoſſeſſion, be dogmatically obtruded upon them, to ſerve private Ends, though mask'd under the ſpecious Pretences of a National Concern. Wherefore, I hope thoſe worthy Gentlemen at *London*, who are concerned in this Company, will endeavour to anticipate any evil Effect of theſe or the like Miſ-repreſentations and groundleſs Suggeſtions mention'd in your *Letter*, by obviating the Fallacy of ſuch noiſie Arguments as (you ſay) are daily with an Ayre of Magiſterial Stiffneſs dictated at *Garraways*, and from thence diffus'd amongſt the credulous Multitude; which, whenſoever impartially examin'd and conſidered, will doubtleſs appear to have no other Merit at bottom, than a Nooſe of Sophiſtry to catch Woodcocks in. For there was never any Conſtitution of Trade concerted by any Free Kingdom, State or Commonwealth in *Europe*, with greater regard to the Conſtitutions and Privileges of all other Nations in Amity with His Majeſty, than this hath been: yea, ſhould we have had a Committee of Engliſh Merchants to Examine and Report our Proceedings while we were Paſſing this ACT, they could not poſſibly have been more nicely tender of Encroaching upon, or Interferring with the Engliſh Immunities, either Abroad or at Home, than we have been. And in regard that Pyracy, Hoſtility, and all manner of violent Force, is not only inconſiſtent with, but diametrically oppoſit to the natural Lawes and Inſtitutions of Trade, we have, in the Body of this ACT, precluded the *Company* from Acting or Setling in the very *Indies*, without Conſent of the Natives. And, in ſhort, we had then the Law of Nations ſo immediately under our Conſideration,

that

that it was thought by the moſt Precautious of our Aſſembly, we had left no room for ſo much as a poſſibility of Cavilling. But there's none ſo blind as they who will not ſee; and by what you write, I find, had there been any thing in our *Act* that could not bear the Tryal of the ſtricteſt Enquiry on the aforeſaid Heads, it had certainly been long e're now ript up and printed in Capital Letters by thoſe who were at the Trouble and Expence of Reprinting the *Act* at *London* in ſeveral ſhapes, and under a new Title of their own framing, of deſign to adapt it more properly to the Notion of Rivalſhip and Emulation, which (you ſay,) they ſo induſtriouſly preach in Coffee-houſes.

Obj. Oh! but (ſay they,) Tho' there be nothing in the *Act* that at preſent may ſeem to interferr with, yet in the Conſequence it may prove pernicious to the Intereſt of *England*.

In Anſwer to which, give me leave to obſerve, That as this *Act* was calculated for a Common and Publick Good; ſo though it be a received and ſtanding Maxim, That *No Evil is to be done, that Good may come of it*; yet no reaſonable Man will urge from thence the Alternative, *That we ought to forbear doing an apparent Publick Good, becauſe of a remote poſſibility of an imaginary Evil Conſequence.*

And before I ſtep further, pray let us take a ſhort View of what Proſpect there may be of this bug-bearing Conſequence. Why, truly *Scotland* propoſeth an Advantage by Foreign Trade, and leaves it at *England*'s door to accept or refuſe, being concerned for one Moiety of all the Profits, Emoluments and Advantages ariſing from ſuch Trade; and by the bye, *England*'s embracing that Offer, ſeems to me an auſpicious Prognoſtick of future Succeſs. Now, ſhould we happen to be fruſtrate in our Expectation by this Trade, then all the vain Jealouſies of Rivalſhip and Competition fall of courſe. But if it ſhould (as I hope it may) anſwer our Wiſhes, by a plentiful and proſperous Harveſt, in return to our Honeſt and Infant-Undertaking, *England*, ſure, would be mightily hurt, to reap One Half of all the Profits thereof; which I pray God may prove the happy Conſequence, ſo much fear'd by your Monopoly-men.

Yet all this (you ſay) cannot pleaſe them that are reſolved to be implacable; for that there are a certain ſort of ſuch good-natur'd Chriſtians in the World, as would chuſe rather to loſe a certain Benefit and Advantage to themſelves, than endure the very thoughts of ſeeing their Neighbours in any tolerable degree of equal Proſperity. In alluſion to which,

'tis no new thing to tell you, That ever ſince the Reformation of Religion, the Jeſuits, in their various ſhapes, have left no means uneſſayed, to propogate the ſeveral Sects and Schiſms which, during the laſt Age, have, like a general Contagion, overſpread this Iſland, and undoubtedly gave the firſt riſe to all the ſad Cataſtrophe and diſmal Conſequences of the late bloody Civil Wars. And even ſo, ſince the Union of both Kingdoms under one Monarchy, we have too too manifeſt and pregnant Proof of how far the *Matchevilian* Maxims of Policy have, by the means of *French* Penſioners and Emiſſaries, gain'd credit enough at the Court of *England*, to improve the Remnants and Dregs of the ancient Feuds of both Kingdoms into an almoſt avowed Reaſon of State (though a much miſtaken one) *That it was the Intereſt of* England, *to ſuppreſs and keep* Scotland *poor*. Which was indeed chiefly intended and contrived with deſign to leave *England* in the lurch, and carry on the real Intereſt of *France*, where this Maxim had its birth, by regaining *Scotland* into their ancient League.

For the Sting and hidden Poyſon of the Serpent lay in this, That the People of *Scotland*, from the natural conſideration they muſt needs have of any ſevere Treatment, or unreaſonable and intollerable Exactions impoſed upon them by their domineering Neighbours, might in time be tempted, like the *Iſraelites* in the Wilderneſs, to *murmur* and *look back into the Onions, Melons, Garlick, and Fleſh-pots of their old acquaintance.*

Yet by the Influence of this Jeſuitical, Barbarous and Helliſh Principle, together with the general Corruption of ſuch colleaguing and ſelf-deſigning Miniſters as have (to the grief of theſe Nations) been at the Helm of Affairs during thoſe latter Reigns, this poor Nation in particular hath been moſt unmercifully crampt and fetter'd in its natural Liberties, both as to Religion, Property, Trade, and indeed, all the real Badges of a Free and independent Kingdom, other than in ſhadow; till the late Providential and Happy Revolution gave us not only a fair opportunity of reaſſuming all our ancient Freedoms, and natural Liberties, but alſo of extending the ſame, in point of Trade, far beyond thoſe Limits which ſome of our Neighbours ſeem now unwilling to allow Us.

And I would gladly offer it to the ſerious Conſideration of any Honeſt, Unbyaſs'd and Free-thinking *Engliſh-man*, Whether, upon His preſent Majeſty's Acceſſion to the Crown of *England*, when *Ireland* was in a manner quite lopp'd off, *France* making mighty Preparations for War, all *Europe* invelop'd in almoſt unquenchable Flames; and *England* it ſelf, not free from Inteſtine Diviſions, and Boſom Enemies, who flatter'd themſelves

themſelves with the Hopes that *Scotland* would, from the conſideration of its being ſo long kept at Arm's-length, be tempted to act by an Intereſt ſeparate from that of *England*? Whether (I ſay) upon condition of aſſurance then, that we would follow *England*'s Example, in placing the Crown of this Realm upon the Heads of our preſent Gracious Sovereign, and and His late Royal Conſort (of Bleſſed Memory,) when they fear'd our Demurring upon it, *England* would not have willingly fulfilled, and put us in poſſeſſion of the long promis'd Union of both Nations; and ſettled the ſame upon ſuch an equal and laſting Foundation, as that we might have freedom of Trading into the very Heart of their Plantations?

For, how little ſoever the apparent Proportion be, which our Nation may at preſent ſeem to bear on the Theatre of Publick Action, as being in a manner wholly eclypſed by the refulgent and radiant Beams of *England*'s more reſplendent Greatneſs, I may without Hyperbole juſtly ſay, That as Matters then ſtood, We had the Ballance of *Europe* in our Hands.

Yet all the Conſiderations we had in view of our own particular Intereſt, and the Advantages which we might have made of that Opportunity, ſoon gave way to the irreſiſtible Zeal and Affection which we had for the Reſtorer of the Proteſtant Religion, and common Liberties of *Britain*. For, leſt that by any Delays in our Proceedings, the Meaſures of *England* might be protracted, We did, in almoſt One Breath, Declare the Throne Vacant, our Selves a Free, Independent State, Their Royal Highneſſes King and Queen of this Realm, and war againſt all Their Majeſty's Enemies; as not in the leaſt doubting, but that ſuch our generous and frank Proceeding, with reſpect to our Neighbours, at ſo critical a Juncture of Affairs, might in due time reaſonably plead for a grateful Reſentment from the King and Parliament of *England*, by an equally generous Condeſcenſion, on their ſide, to our having the ſame freedom of Trade, by which, but a little time before, the wiſeſt and moſt leading Men of that Nation thought it their Intereſt to have ſecured our Affection.

And that this was the ſence of the Court of *England* at that time, needs no further Evidence than His Majeſty's two ſucceſſive *Speeches* to both Houſes of His Firſt Parliament; wherein the conſideration of an intire Union with *Scotland* was ſeriouſly recommended: In order to which, ſome Schemes were prepared and conſulted by certain Noble Patriots of both Nations.

But

But no ſooner had we, in the interim, ſolemnly conſummated, in manner aforeſaid, all that *England* could have either wiſh'd or fear'd from us on that Occaſion; but of a ſudden, all thoughts of ſuch Union fell to the ground: ſo that being left to chew our Cud upon that melancholy Proverb, *Poſt eſt occaſio calva*, which in our Dialect may be render'd, *A True Scotchman is Wiſe behind-hand*; our next and only Remedy was, to *make the beſt of a bad Market*. In order to which, we then Reſolved to think of framing ſuch wholſom and advantagious Lawes for the Advancement of our poor Trade, as might not only rouze up and animate the depreſſed and often-diſappointed Genius of our fellow-Natives, but alſo invite and enduce Strangers more experienced in Trade, to embarque upon the ſame bottom with us: and to that end, We did, in the Third Seſſion of this current Parliament, *Anno* 1693, Paſs a Preliminary *Act*, conceived in general Terms, *for the Encouragement of Foreign Trade*, which you ſee narrated in the beginning of this laſt *Act*: By the gracious and neceſſary Conceſſions of which, we have a plain Demonſtration, through the Vertue of thoſe Noble and worthy Patriots whom His Majeſty's diſcerning Eye ſingled out of the Crowd of Pretenders to the Offices of State, That our preſent King is not only *Pater Patriæ*, but *Pâter Patriarum*; and, like the true Emblem of that Immenſe Deity whoſe Anointed he is, diffuſeth his Favours with a more unconfined and univerſal Influence than any of our late Kings of *Britain*; Their natural Eaſineſs of Temper giving many fatal Opportunities to the mercenary Miniſters of thoſe Times, both to impoſe on their Maſters, and prey upon the Liberties of their fellow-Subjects: whereas, our preſent King doth not only penetrate into what is Juſt, but hath alſo a Nobleneſs of Soul, to execute, with an impartial Hand, what to him ſeemeth to be ſo. And that the giving his Royal Sanction to this *Act*, was the effect both of his Juſtice and Gratitude, is plain from the natural Regard which in Reaſon we muſt needs ſuppoſe him to have had to our frank and ſeaſonable Services, when in themſelves they were moſt Valuable, and when indeed he ſtood moſt in need of them.

Obj. But (you ſay) the Out-cry is, That theſe are ſuch unprecedented Conceſſions and Exceptions as never were, or ought to be granted by a Prince to any Society or Company of Traders in the World: *Ergo*, ———

Hah!

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Hah! Is the Hue and Cry got up then? I am glad of it: For certainly, the Great, the Grave, and Wiſe Men of the Nation, do never joyn in that Chorus.

But to be more ſerious; 'Tis true, that theſe Conceſſions may ſeem ſomwhat ſtrange to a People whoſe Wealth, Capacity, Naval Strength, Foreign Poſſeſſions, Plantations, Forts, and Univerſal Settlements, want no more to carry on what Trade ſoever they pleaſe, than to will and to execute.

But on the other hand, if they look upon *Scotland*, and conſider it, as in it ſelf it is, deficient to a degree of Extremity, in all the neceſſary Qualifications of Trade above-recited; they muſt own of courſe, that nothing leſs than theſe Conceſſions and Exemptions could give this *New Company* a proſpect of ſo much as a Poſſibility of ever grappling with ſuch infinite and almoſt inſuperable Difficulties as they (and indeed, all other Beginnings) muſt neceſſarily encounter with: ſo that if ſuch Exemptions had not been granted, we had as good have erected no *Company*.

And as to theſe Conceſſions being without Precedent, I will not pretend to give an Inſtance of any that are exactly the ſame with the Privileges contained in this *Act*: but if I let you ſee much greater, I hope that may ſerve the turn. Nor to do that, need I go ſo far from hence, as to ſearch into the Records of other Nations, ſuch as *France*, *Holland*, *Denmark*, and others who have given illimited Powers, and vaſt Encouragements to their reſpective Tradeing Companies; but even in *Scotland*, when we could not be preſumed to have had any great Notions of Trade about Thirty five Years paſt, upon the Reſtauration of King *Charles* II. in his Firſt Parliament, and the ſeveral Seſſions thereof, (before the French King had time to plant his Janizaries in the Court of *England*,) there were ſeveral *Acts* Paſs'd in favour of Trade and Manufactories, with Privileges and Exemptions far exceeding any in this *Act*, with reſpect to the Purpoſes for which they were granted, *Mutatis Mutandis*.

And that I may not ſeem to ſpeak altogether without Book, I ſhall give you an Inſtance of one for all; namely, the *Act* Paſs'd, in the Year 1661, *for the Fiſhings, and Erecting of Companies for Promoting the ſame*; which being too long to be tranſcribed, I ſend you, by way of *Poſtſcript*, a ſhort Abſtract of the moſt conſiderable Privileges and Exemptions therein contained, as they ſtand in order, in the *Act* it ſelf; and all theſe were Granted for Perpetuity: Whereas, all the moſt Important Conceſſions in this late *Act* are limited, ſome to Ten, ſome to Twenty one Years; in which time (God knows) we

muſt run very faſt, to come up with any of all our neighbouring Nations, who have ſtarted ſo long before Us.

Now let us further compare both the ſaid *Acts*, and the Purpoſes for which they were ſeverally intended, and then, with reſpect to this laſt, we muſt think of going we know not whither, undergo the Danger of boyſterous Storms, and long Voyages, with which we are not acquainted: tye up our Stomachs to ſtrict, regular, and unaccuſtomed Diets; prepare againſt the Effects of quite contrary Climates, and there purchaſe Plantations, Collonies, Settlements, and build Forts, *&c.* Yet as to the Time when all this will happen, he muſt be a wiſer Man than I, that can tell.

But as to the former *Act for the Fiſhing*, &c. all Matters thereunto relating were to be tranſacted in view of our own Doors, and in our own Power. But then you'll ask me, How it came to paſs, that this excellent Conſtitution for our Fiſhings has had no better Effect? Why truly, I'll tell you, For the very ſame Reaſon which may poſſibly prove the Overthrow of this New Undertaking (which God forbid) if we have no better luck in getting honeſter Men at the Head of it: For the *Dutch*, who have got moſt of their Wealth by Fiſhing in other Mens Waters, looking upon us then with a jealous Eye, found a way (as it was then believ'd) to greaſe a certain Great Man in the Fiſt; who thereupon embarqued himſelf, and all his Friends, with all his Might, on our Bottom; and who being once at the Head of all, thwarted all, over-rul'd all, and ruin'd all: For the Honeſt and Well-meaning Men, finding themſelves no other than Cyphers, grew wearied, and ſo gave up the Cudgels.

By all which, you have a plain Demonſtration and Proof, That what may do in one Nation, will not do in another. But I'm reſolv'd to wait with Patience, and hope for the beſt: *Exitus acta probat*; the meaning of which is in Engliſh, *The Proof of the Pudding is in the Eating.*

Obj. But then (you ſay,) The unanſwerable and thundering *Dilemma*, which theſe Grumblers would ſeem, and do actually boaſt, to faſten upon His Majeſty, is, That either he muſt retract what he has done, by ſome publick Mark of his Diſcountenancing this *New Company*, or otherwiſe he cannot in reaſon deny the like Conceſſions to the ſeveral Tradeing Companies of *England*, who have ſo largely contributed towards the Expence of this preſent War.

Anſ. This

Anſw. This is truly the moſt plauſible Difficulty of all that's offer'd, and ſuch a Nooſe as may readily catch Larks, but will never gravel the judicious part of Mankind more than any of the former, as being all of one piece. The better to obviate which, I ſhall give you a plain, eaſie, juſt and adequate Parallel in the like Caſe. As for Example: Suppoſing me Lord of a conſiderable Mannour producing abundance of Corn, Hay, Fruit, and having all the marks of a fertile and well-cultivated Soil, which I have Lett to Farm for a certain Annual or Yearly Rent; which Rent I have, by Contract of Marriage, appropriated to the Payment of my Wife's Joynture: in the interim, there comes to me an Undertaker, with a Propoſal, That whereas I am alſo Proprietor of a certain piece of unprofitable, waſte Ground, together with ſome Acres of Land quite under Water, both which yield me no Rent; he will engage, at his own Hazard, Labour and Expence, to cultivate the one, and drain the other, providing I grant him a Leaſe thereof free of all Rent for Twenty one Years; to which I readily and reaſonably aſſent, as foreſeeing the Advantage that muſt thereby accrue, if not to my ſelf immediately, yet to my Heirs and Succeſſors. Upon the executing of which Leaſe, ſhould he who Farm'd my Principal Mannour in manner aforeſaid, come and tax me of being an exacting and partial Landlord, if I would not alſo let him ſit Rent-free, as well as his new Neighbour-Undertaker; Pray, what Regard do you think I ought to obſerve to any Demand that were grounded only upon ſuch a Reaſon? The Application whereof is ſo eaſie and natural, that it were calling your Judgment into queſtion, to expatiate any more upon that Head: Yet leſt you may ſay that *omne ſimile eſt diſſimile*, and think this to be only an indirect Anſwer to all the Parts of your *Objection*, I ſhall touch them ſeverally.

And, Firſt, As to any publick Mark of His Majeſty's Diſcountenance to this *New Company*, which would be the doing and undoing of a thing with the ſame breath, is ſo tender a Point, that the very Thoughts of it is attacking and wounding His Majeſty, at once, in two of his moſt peculiar Attributes, *Wiſdom in Council*, and *Stedfaſtneſs of Reſolution.*

Then as to what Conceſſions may be adviſable to be given to all or any of the Tradeing Companies of *England*, I muſt ſuſpend my weak Judgment therein, the King, and enſuing Parliament, being the only proper Judges thereof; only thus far I'll venture to judge, That whoever audaciouſly dare pretend to anticipate the Sence of ſo Great and Auguſt an Aſſembly, by Dictating in Coffee-houſes what his Arrogance thinks,

thinks, forſooth, they ought to do, may likewiſe think himſelf well come off at laſt, if he eſcape with only a Reprimand.

And then as to the laſt Branch of the *Objection*, which ſeems to point at, *our not contributing, ſo largely as they have, towards the Expence of the War*; let us conſider, whether they think Us equally concerned? and whether We may expect a proportionable ſhare of the Glory and Advantage? If not, then we are but Auxiliaries, and ought not to undergo any narrow ſcrutiny on that head: For, *A given Horſe ought not to be examin'd in the Mouth.*

But ſuppoſing (as indeed I think) We are equally concern'd in the ſame Common Cauſe; it muſt be confeſs'd, That we cannot boaſt of any great ſtore of Wealth, (for which we may partly thank thoſe Familiar Spirits of *France*, who by a Leger-demain Trick of *Hocus Pocus*, have too often aſſumed the ſhapes of Court-Cards, in the moſt conſiderable Games which have (till of late Years) been play'd on the Engliſh Stage;) yet, in Proportion to what our Strength was, in any tollerable meaſure, able to bear, we have always ſignified our good Inclination, by giving ſuch Supplies, from time to time, as have not only rais'd very conſiderable Numbers of excellent Troops, but alſo Maintain'd the ſame, till call'd out of the Nation by His Majeſty, and then we ſucceſſively rais'd others, to be a conſtant Nurſery for the Engliſh Army. This was all we could do; and could we have done more, we ſtood in need of no Spurr to do it: The *Widow's Mite* in the Goſpel was more acceptable to Our Saviour, than all the large Offerings of thoſe who gave only out of the Abundance of their Superfluities: *Of them to whom much hath been given, much ſhall be required.* And if His Majeſty ſhould queſtion us upon this head, we can juſtly anſwer him with a Scripture Phraſe, *Silver and Gold have we none; but ſuch as we have, we give unto him.* True Hearts, and Valiant Hands; Brave Truſty Lads, arm'd with Natural Buff, who dare encounter Fire and Smoke, and whoſe Undaunted Reſolution and Valour, upon all Occaſions of Tryal, have, to the Diminution of their Number, given at leaſt ſome ſmall Addition to the Advancing Glory of the Engliſh Arms: which if we had not given, an equal Number of equal Troops from any of our moſt entirely beloved Confederate Princes (if any ſuch they had to ſpare) would certainly be good Meat, but muſt needs have coſt *England* very dear Sauce.

And ſince I now treat of our Uſefulneſs to *England*, how little ſoever they may value it; I ſhall beg leave to look back again upon the further Motives that induced us to be forward

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in Paſſing this *Act*, and take alſo a further view of the Advantages that may probably ariſe, not only unto our Selves, but to *England* in general, by it.

As to the Firſt of theſe, we obſerved, That the Cuſtoms, Faſhions, and Luxury of other Nations, having bewitch'd our Travelling Nobility and Gentry, had introduced a certain kind of Neceſſity among us, of uſing and conſuming many more and greater quantities of Foreign Commodities than were ſo much as ever known almoſt to the honeſt Simplicity of our plain and wiſe Fore-Fathers, and more truly than we had ſuperfluous Money to pay for; eſpecially at ſuch exorbitant Rates as are impos'd upon us at the third, fourth, fifth, and (poſſibly) ſixth hand, by our own Pedlars, and the exacting Broakers of all other Countries about us. This we ſee a growing Evil, and ſuch as we could not juſtly anſwer for, to our Conſtituents, who were equally concerned, if we had not taken it into our moſt ſerious Conſideration, and with all expedition apply'd the moſt effectual Remedy we could think of; which, after all our Conſultations, and the beſt Advice we could have, terminated in this *Act*; as hoping thereby, that at ſome time or other we may, by degrees, come to have at firſt Hand, and upon an equal Lay, ſuch Foreign Commodities as are now palm'd upon us.

By all which, you may plainly ſee, we had no ſiniſter Deſign; we meant no harm to any other Kingdom, State, or Company: *Evil to them that Evil think*: We had no thoughts of drowning our Neighbour's Garden, but of watering our own; and I have no reaſon to doubt, but that the Simplicity and Honeſty of our Intention therein, will upon all occaſions meet with a ſutable Return.

And as to what further Advantages *England* may probably reap from this *Act*; I think, with ſubmiſſion, that of all ſorts of Men, the *Engliſh Eaſt-India Company* hath leaſt reaſon to murmur at it; and I am glad to hear the Wiſeſt of them do not, nor indeed, any of them (I believe) at their Heart. For, whatſoever Conceſſions, Exemptions, or Eſtabliſhment, the Wiſdom of the enſuing Parliament may think fit to grant to that Company, they have reaſon enough, from the conſideration of their own Miſmanagement, which (I humbly preſume) occaſion'd the late Treatment ſome of them had at *Weſtminſter*, to ground the beſt part of their Hopes for better Treatment there at this time, upon the Emulation which Our *Act* hath ſeemingly entitl'd them to raiſe in the Hearts of their Friends in Parliament, whom I heartily wiſh to be many: *Salvo Jure cujuſlibet*. For I am ſure, the World is ſpacious enough to

contain both Them, and the *Scotch Company*, for more Efforts than either one or other, or both of them, are able to put in execution. They may, in time, be ſerviceable each to the other, *Manus Manum fricat* ; and as I hope, the *Engliſh Company* may have reaſon, before the Determination of the enſuing Seſſion, to Thank the King and Parliament. They will at the ſame time be pleas'd to remember, that *they owe us a Day in Harveſt* ; that is, ſome ſeaſonable piece of Friendſhip.

Now, if the enſuing Parliament do (as I believe they will) take the *Eaſt-India Company* into their Care, whether out of a particular Regard to the ſaid Company, or with reſpect to the Intereſt of the whole Nation, or out of Emulation, from a mix'd Conſideration of both ; I ſhall have infinite Satisfaction, to find that we are ſo far uſeful to our Neighbours, as to let them ſee that to be their Intereſt now, which for ſome Years paſt they at leaſt ſeem'd to have overlooked, till we put them in mind of it. And my Hopes are, That if Emulation will once enter within the Doors of that Noble Aſſembly, they will raiſe their Thoughts upon the very Wings of Emulation, and *take the right Sow by the Lugg* ; that is, caſt their Eyes about them, and point at Objects worthy of ſuch Noble Efforts as They only are able to put in Practice, by curbing the Enemies of *Britain*, and putting ſome ſtop to the Career and overgrown Greatneſs of its Rivals in Trade ; of whoſe Affection or Friendſhip *England* can be no longer ſecure, than they are ſure of Gaining by *England* : Whereas, We poor Mortals muſt at all times look upon our ſelves as in the State of Matrimony, *For better for worſe* : So that if we are not allowed ſome reaſonable meaſure of *Due Benevolence*, that Eſſential Part of Conjugal Duty, the World will certainly look upon Us as the more excuſable, if at ſome time or other we ſhould venture to peep abroad.

Object. But ſtill theſe Grumblers (you ſay) do urge that this *New Company* will Steal vaſt Quantities of Goods both by Sea and Land into *England*, and over-ſtock the Markets there with *Indian* Goods, to be Sold at Under-rates, to the apparent loſs of the Engliſh *Eaſt-India* and *African* Companies.

This is truly a very wide ſuppoſition ; yet ſuppoſing it all to be true, (as I believe it cannot) pray wherein is *England* hurt by it ? For over all *England* there muſt be a vaſt many more Buyers than Sellers of any one particular Commodity, and as *Of two Evils the leaſt is to be choſen* ; ſo, *Of two interferring Intereſts, the moſt publick and univerſal good of theſe two is always preferrable to the other* ; then beyond diſpute, the Buyers of ſuch particular Commodity (whom I take to be the Body of the Nation) will find it their Intereſt at all times, to beat down the

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Market-price; especially of Forreign Goods; otherwise our Forefathers of both Nations, were very much overseen to make so many Laws, which stand yet Unrepealed, against the Forestalling of Markets, and the Engrossing of Commodities into few hands. So that if all Restrictions, Limitations, and Prohibitions upon Trade between both Nations were wholly abrogated, the great and natural ends of Trade, would (in my humble opinion) be more universally and much better answered.

Now, upon summing up the Evidence on both sides, I find we must reckon upon many Enemies beyond-Sea: But I hope I may modestly conclude, That after a true Scrutiny is made; this *Act* will meet with no Enemies within the Isle of *Britain*, but who may be comprehended in one or other of two sorts, and these Two (some say) very near related: The first are, such who may seemingly grumble at this *Act*, for no other reason, but to make a Scaling-ladder of it, to a Wall which (without it) they were past all hopes of ever getting over. The others are, a certain sett of Men, who (like Water-men) row one way, and look another. From both which, I hope, the Legislative Power and Government of both Nations will protect this Orphan.

To Conclude then: As Almighty God, in his All-wise Providence, often revealeth and brings to pass his Great and Excellent Purposes, by ordinary and unexpected Means; who knows, but that the harmonious Unity which (I hope) will appear in the Equal, Just, and Impartial Management and Administration of this New *Scotch-English*, or *English-Scotch Indian Company*, may, in good time, be a happy Motive and Inducement to (at least) all the Wise Men of either Nation, to lay aside misplaced Passion, the Prejudices of Infancy and Education; Reason justly for their Own and Publick Interests sake; obliterate and bury in oblivion the distinguishing Names of *Scotch* and *English*; and then voluntarily list themselves under the United Banner of Undivided *Britain*; to be one in Interest, and Inclination, in Offence and Defence. From the Consequences of which happy Day, we may date the *Æra* of *BRITAIN*'s being Truly GREAT. And pray, what should hinder it? Nature seems to have intended Us for One People, as having concentered us within the same Liquid Walls; we are the Subjects of One King; we speak the same Language, differing only in Dialect, as most Counties do; we profess the same Religion, differing only in some Forms, which may or may not be; our Lawes point at the same End, to distribute Justice, and defend Liberty and Property: All which may be soon reconciled, if the Wisdoms of both Nations should once heartily set about it.

No Man alive can have greater Veneration for the Govern-

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ment and People of *England*, or be more tender of giving them any the leaſt umbrage of Offence, than my ſelf: But if any particular Perſon will, from the Light within him, apply to his own Breaſt any Expreſſion herein that may ſeem harſh, that's his fault, and not mine: In which caſe, I'd adviſe him, like a Friend, to lie ſtill and be quiet; expiate for any former Eſcapes in his Life, by a better Regulation of his Actions in time to come; ſubmit to all Laws and Ordinances of ſuch as are put in Authority over us, and let the Wiſdom of the Nation Rule the Nation.

If herein I have not anſwered your Expectation, yet you have an Inſtance of my hearty and ſincere good Wiſhes to the Intereſt of *Britain*, and of my readineſs to comply with your Deſire, whenſoever you are pleas'd to Command,

SIR,

EDINBURGH, *Novemb.* 14. 1695.

Your Humble Servant,

PHILONAX VERAX.

An *Abſtract* of the Privileges contained in *An Act* (mention'd pag. 7.) *for the Fiſhings*, &c.

SAlt, Cordage, Hemp, Cork, Pitch, Tarr, Clapboard, Knapple, Skewhoops and Nets, free of all Cuſtom, or other Impoſition whatſoever.

All Herring and White Fiſh taken and prepared therewith, free of any manner of Taxation or Burden in the Exportation of the ſame.

All Strangers concerned therein, Naturaliz'd of courſe, and alſo free of all Taxation upon their other Effects, for the ſpace of Seven Years next after ſuch their Naturalization.

All Beer, Ale, Strong-waters, and other Proviſions for Out-reeking of any Veſſel for the ſaid Fiſhings, free of all manner of Impoſitions whatſoever.

All Lords, and Proprietors of Land, in all Places throughout the Kingdom where ſuch Fiſhing is carried on, to protect, maintain and defend the ſame, and all Maſters of Ships, Fiſhers, and others whatſoever thereunto belonging, from all harm and trouble; otherwiſe, to refund and ſatisfie reſpectively all Loſs and Damage ſuſtained upon their Land.

All Ships, Boats, and other Veſſels, in the exerciſe of the ſaid Trade of Fiſhing, and their employment therein, no ways Arreſtible by any Creditor: The Fiſhers, Maſters and Servants in the ſaid Veſſels, during the whole time and ſeaſon of ſuch Fiſhing, and their employment therein, free from all Actions of Debt, and no ways conveenable before any Judge or Judicature whatſoever, for any Cauſe or Cauſes Civil, which might be intended againſt them: and generally all the ſaid Perſons, Maſters and Servants, free of all Captions, Arreſtments, or other Attachments on their Perſons, or againſt their Materials and Inſtruments of Fiſhing, they being actually ſerving therein allanerly.

The Stock and Profits thereof free of all Stents and Taxations.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 6. l. 39. for *Exceptions* r. *Exemptions.* pag. 7. l. 23. for *hence* r. *Home.*